SUBJECTS.

of free education among the backward classes, such as Pulayas, Parayas and Kuruvas and to provide ample funds for the same.

Dewan's reply.—The question of extending education among those classes, that have been hitherto slow in availing themselves of its benefits, is engaging the consideration of the Director.

50. *Establishment of Mahomedan schools and the entertainment of Mahomedan teachers to teach Arabic.*

On behalf of *Mr. Syed Mahomed Ibrahim Pillai* (Member, Nominated) who was absent, Mr. Kunju Khadir Pillai stated that, from an educational point of view, the Mahomedans stood very low. The Member requested Government to start Mahomedan schools, wherever they were found necessary, as was done in British Malabar. He advocated the establishment of separate Elementary Schools for Mahomedans. The present Education Code vested in the Director of Public Instruction discretionary powers to start Special Schools, if there were peculiar circumstances necessitating the existence of such schools; and ample provision was made in the Code for the better elementary education of the masses by making the elementary course of study entirely free and within reach of even the poorest. The Member hoped that Government would be pleased to comply with his request on behalf of the Mahomedan community and that the establishment of Mahomedan schools would become a working reality ere long. It was pointed out by the Member that Arabic must be taught in all Mahomedan schools, as all Mahomedan children, both male and female, were compelled to learn their sacred book, the Koran, and Mahomedan teachers should be employed to teach it.

Dewan's reply.—The attention of the Director will be drawn to this matter.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-30 P. M.

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